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## EAST TIMOR: CAUSE FOR CONTINUING CONCERN

**HON. MATTHEW F. McHUGH**
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 2, 1986*

Mr. McHUGH. Mr. Speaker, last April, before President Reagan's visit to Indonesia, I was 1 of 124 Members of this House to sign a letter circulated by the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. HALL] regarding the situation in East Timor, a largely Roman Catholic territory invaded by Indonesia in 1975.

In responding to that letter, the State Department informed us that Secretary of State Shultz had "discussed the issue of alleged human rights violations in East Timor" with the Indonesian Foreign Minister during the course of the President's trip. The Secretary deserves credit for doing so.

The Department's response also went on to note that our Embassy in Jakarta would continue "to maintain a dialog with the Indonesian Government on this important issue."

Mr. Speaker, I believe the Embassy's attention should be directed toward a recent account of the brutal beating of a Roman Catholic priest by Indonesian soldiers on June 27. In addition, the arrest earlier this month of three students from East Timor would also seem to be a cause for concern for our Government. Amnesty International is particularly concerned that the students, two of whom are pursuing legal studies, may be subject to torture.

That the Congress remains concerned about the situation on East Timor should be clear to the Indonesian Government. For example, 135 Members of the House have cosponsored a resolution by the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. HALL] regarding the situation on that island.

In addition, the House Foreign Operations Subcommittee, on which I serve, highlighted its own concerns regarding the human rights situation in East Timor in our recent report on the foreign aid bill:

[From House Report 99-747]

EAST TIMOR, HUMAN RIGHTS

The Committee is concerned about continuing reports of human rights violations by the Indonesian Armed Forces on East Timor. The Committee believes that the Administration should take all appropriate measures to ensure that the Government of Indonesia takes actions to bring these abuses under control such as maintaining and expanding access to and guaranteeing freedom of movement in East Timor for humanitarian organizations so that such organizations can carry out their humanitarian operations to the fullest extent feasible; and guaranteeing full freedom of expression for an end to intimidation of the Roman Catholic Church in East Timor.

The Committee is also concerned about reports that a population control program has been imposed on East Timor by the occupying authorities, despite the severe depopulation of the island since the Indonesian invasion in 1975. It is the Committee expectation that population programs should be entirely voluntary, that adequate education is provided the participants and that the religious values of the East Timorese are respected.

One would hope that these bipartisan expressions of concern will lead to effective protection for the clergy and citizens of East Timor, and for the specific individuals whose cases I have cited in this statement.